

The **Parks and Recreation Board** met Monday, June 15, 2015, 4:30pm, at the Parks Office. Present at said meeting were Pat Flannelly, Karen Springer, John MacDonald, Aimee Jacobsen, Jeff Love and Board Attorney Andy Gutwein. Council President, Ann Hunt also attended. Jan Fawley, Pennie Ainsworth, Bess Witcosky, Dan Dunten and Cheryl Kolb represented the department. Absent was staff member, Chris Foley.

Karen convened the Board at 4:35pm.

Old Business – n/a

New Business

Celery Bog Nature Area Sign

Beverly Shaw provided some background information for the Public Arts Team, noting one of their missions will be to provide updated signage for our parks. The design will incorporate something iconic for the selected area. The Celery Bog Nature Area is the first area to receive one of the sign/sculpture combinations. We have been fortunate to commission the first two works from artist, Jeff Larimore, who is out of Indianapolis. The artist is very interested in having community input, regarding geographic location, and hearing what the citizens want. He had them to survey different groups/users of the Celery Bog and the final result was for us to have a Herron as part of the design. The new sign/sculpture will be located west of the entrance to the Celery Bog Nature Area. The artist will also be providing another piece of work for us, with the location to be determined later. Discussion followed.

We have another immediate project approaching; the Public Arts Team was given \$9,400.00, money from the Build Indiana Fund, which was money left over from the Wabash Landing Project. They were told to use the money and that it should reflect the Wabash Landing area, so they chose to use it for Tapawingo Park. We sent out an RFP (Request for Proposal) and did not receive much back in the form of entries for the request. I visited White River State Park and noticed a sculpture piece on display, named Travelogue, which seemed perfect for the Tapawingo area. The piece had been on display for the past two years, and the time was going to be up this summer. I wrote to the artist and asked if he would be interested in selling the piece to us for \$9,000.00 He said it wasn't very much money, but he agreed. He is Eric Nordgulen through Indiana University, and is currently a professor at Herron School of Art in Indianapolis. Professor Nordgulen wrote back and said that White River State Park would like to own the piece for an additional two years, so he asked if he could build us a different one. He sent a mocked copy of the new piece, which was liked more than the original. The Canoe Sculpture Dedication at Tapawingo Park will take place at RiverFest on July 11 @ 12:15pm. Discussion followed.

Tube Run @ Happy Hollow Park

Jan provided information regarding an Engineering Fraternity's request to build new steps leading up the hill by the Tube Run in Happy Hollow Park. Discussion followed pertaining to the risk factors involved and the project itself. The item was tabled until next month.

Tap Class for Civic Theater

Bess presented a request from the Civic Theater to use a tap room, Room 101, at no charge, for one day, one hour, per month, during the months of July, August and September. The use

of the room is to encourage people to enhance their skills for the upcoming production of Anything Goes. If the board agrees to the waived fee, its monetary value would be \$30.00. Karen motioned to approve the request for the room and the waived fee as presented. John seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Declare Surplus Items – Morton Stage Curtains

Bess provided some background information concerning the damage (dry rot) to the Morton stage curtains. After discussing with professionals, it has been determined the curtains are not salvageable and should be surplus. Jeff motioned to approve the surplus of the stage curtains as presented. Aimee seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Park Director New Hire

Jan introduced Jon Munn as the new Park Director for the West Lafayette Parks and Recreation department. Jan provided some background information, as did Jon, regarding his past employment with the City's Engineering department. John motioned to approve the hiring as presented. Karen seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

West Lafayette School Board – Karen reported on the following:

- Chief Financial Officer Ross Sloat is retiring June 30 and we have hired Timothy Clary to replace him. Tim is currently Deputy Controller for the City of Lafayette, and prior to that, worked 20 years as Field Examiner I Auditor for the Indiana State Board of Accounts
- For the first time, the band, orchestra and choir at West Lafayette Jr/Sr High School is a recipient of the Indiana State School Music Association All-Music Award for 2014-15. We are one of only thirteen high schools in Indiana to receive a Total Department award.
- West Lafayette School Board needs to appoint someone to the West Lafayette Library Board. Linda Eales' second term ends in July. Please let Karen know if you think of someone who might be a good replacement.
- There is an informational flyer on the annual West Lafayette Music Boosters Ice Cream Social/Summer Music Student Concerts on Wednesday, June 24, 6-9 pm in the Jr High gym.

Wabash River – Jan attended the meeting and noted they are continuing to make purchases, with the inclusion of People's Welding.

Public Comment – n/a**Other**

Jon spoke about his meeting that took place with Niches Land Trust Steward and the interesting information they have collected on Happy Hollow Park and the species of native plants to the area. The document presented to Jon can be found on our website using the following link:

http://www.westlafayette.in.gov/egov/docs/1436979284_673614.pdf

Ann Hunt had a couple of items to bring to our attention; the first being lots of chatter on their neighborhood network concerning giant hogweed. Apparently, it is much harder to deal with than poison ivy. These weeds are located between on Tapawingo Dr., between State St. and River Rd.

W.L.P.R. Park Board Minutes

06/15/15

The other item was a reminder that Art in Bloom is coming up on Saturday, June 27, 10 am – 2 pm. If anyone is interested, Ann would be happy to pass along more details including a map of the various gardens participating this year.

Futsal Court

Aimee talked in the past about the desire of some of the area soccer coaches to have a futsal court in West Lafayette. A little more information has come along; the Indiana 11 soccer team would like to have eleven of these futsal courts in the state of Indiana, so West Lafayette could eventually be one of those locations. They would also be willing to help with the funding. If the Board would like for them to discuss it in the future, or wait until the strategic planning, they would be willing to do so.

2016 Proposed Budget

Jan provided some information pertaining to the current budgeting process for 2016.

Petty Cash

Jan requested the Petty Cash Fund of \$50.00, currently in Lee Booth's name, be dissolved and that we establish a Petty Cash Fund in Jon Munn's name, making him responsible for the fund. John motioned to approve dissolving the Petty Cash Fund in Lee Booth's name and establishing the Petty Cash Fund in Jon Munn's name. Aimee seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Adjourn

Karen motioned to adjourn the meeting. Aimee seconded the motion, and the meeting adjourned at 5:35pm.

Next Meeting Date

The next Park Board meeting will be Monday, July 20, 2015 at the Parks Office.

Consent Agenda Items

Minutes - Provided through online agenda

Staff Management Report

1. Upcoming Program Dates:

- June 15 – Session 2 swim lessons begin; Soccer Camp Week
- June 17, 5:30 p.m.: Summer Stroll w/ walking safety tips. Start at Tapawingo Park
- June 29 – Session 3 swim lessons begin
- June 30, 10 a.m.: SIA grant award for LNC technology upgrade @ SIA
- July 11, 9 am – 5 p.m. Riverfest @ Tapawingo Park
- July 20: Football Skills Camp Week

2. Pennie Ainsworth, Assistant Superintendent's Report

- a. The Senior Games used the Arni Cohen south field for the softball event and the area between the West Lafayette soccer fields and the Michaud-Sinninger Woods for their croquet event.

- b. Coed and the Men's Softball League are going well. Only have had one game cancelled in the last 4 weeks due to the weather.
- c. Precision Concrete Cutting is in the area and will start work on trip hazards in our Parks. CDBG funds will pay for the work.
- d. All but one slot has been filled for entertainment for our 20th annual Global Fest. Our next committee meeting will be on June 26. We will be using the three tents from the Farmer Market this year since TAF said they would be charging us this year for use of their tents.
- e. -submitted by Pennie Ainsworth, Assistant Superintendent

3. Chris Foley, Recreation Director's Report:

- a. Four Summer sports camps were completed. Summer sport camps are offered by Varsity Coaches at the West Lafayette School Corp. facilities.
- b. 75 Girls participated in Coach Jane Schott's girls' basketball camp.
- c. 105 Boys registered for Coach Dave Wood's basketball week long camp. Both week long basketballs camps were offered June 1-5
- d. 35 girls enrolled in Coach Chad Marshall's volleyball camp.
- e. Thanks to W.L. Athletic Director Brock Touloukian for working with the coaches to get the camps scheduled in the High School gym.
- f. The Tennis program is underway. The tennis program coordinator is Tim Wright, the WL Varsity Tennis coach. Tennis lessons are offered at both the West Lafayette Varsity Courts at Cumberland School and the Happy Hollow Courts.
- g. The Municipal Pool opened on May 23 for the Memorial day weekend. The pool was open for evening swim through the week and opened for the season on Friday, May 29. The delayed opening was due the extended school calendar.
- h. The Swim lesson program began on June 1. Four – two week sessions are offered at the Municipal Pool. The swim lesson program continues to be a very popular program. Many of the first to levels have filled for many of the sessions.
- i. Diving lessons are also offered at the Municipal Pool. The Diving program also offers four –two week sessions.
- j. The Boilermaker Aquatics is using the pool in the early morning for team practice.
- k. An automatic Pool vacuum has been purchased. The new robotic vacuum is able to systematically clean the pool after hours. This eliminates the need for staff to hand vacuum the pool.
- l. The two Playground programs at Cumberland School and the Burtfield gym are underway. The Cumberland site's enrollment is down for the first year. It has been suggested that the ongoing construction of Cumberland Road might be the cause of the lower enrollment. The School maintenance staff has been very helpful allowing the program in the school facilities.

4. Jon Munn, Parks Director Report:

- a. Inspection reports of our playgrounds and trails have been completed and filed.
- b. Spent time with members of maintenance staff – getting to know each of them, and their skills.
- c. Working towards developing a vehicle preventative maintenance routine, and encouraging staff to take better care of vehicles.
- d. Working with staff to improve restroom cleaning procedures & mowing routines.

5. Bess Witcoskey, Morton Center Director:

- a. The WL Health Promotions Committee kicked off a walking program on Friday, June 12th for city employees that utilizes our trails and the Strolling Series.
- b. The Summer Stroll Series continues this month at Tapawingo Park June 17th at 5:30p. We will be “Strolling with the Mayor”! Mayor Dennis will be there to chat about West Lafayette events.
- c. The previous stroll on May 20th took place even though it was 50 degrees and drizzling. We had 8 people in attendance.
- d. Summer Camps at Morton started June 8th and attendance is very good. A variety of camps will run through the first week of August.
- e. In July:
 - a. The Summer Stroll Series heads out to the Lilly Nature Center and Celery Bog on July 15th at 5:30pm. This will be our “Nature Stroll” with Tippecanoe County Naturalist Mary Cutler.

6. Dan Dunten, Stewardship Director’s Report

- a. **West Lafayette Farmers Market** – Assisted with two events. One with the Tree Friends to educate the public about the Emerald Ash Borer. The other was with Bess Witcosky to share information about the Parks & Recreation Department.
- b. **Landscaping / Beautification** – Working with the crew, we planted 16 large flower pots around the city, planted 6 trees near the Farmers Market area, removed 3 large tree stumps near the Tapawingo Park fountain, and planted 50 additional flowers in the wildflower garden near the Nature Center. The guys also did a lot of mulching, weeding, string trimming, spraying and general clean-up.
- c. **Maintenance Work** – The crew did an excellent job working on the following: Happy Hollow Park Shelters 3 & 4, swimming pool, Sonya Margerum Fountain, playground surfacing (mulch) added and equipment repaired, and a lot of mowing.
- d. **Wednesdays In The Wild Program Planning** – The steering committee met to plan these weekly environmental education programs for July through the first week of December. We will be contacting speakers and making the necessary arrangements for their programs and publicity.
- e. **Working With Millennial Volunteers** – Attended a workshop that covered ways to engage this group of potential volunteers. These are individuals born in the early 1980’s – early 2000’s and statistics show that approximately 65% of them volunteer for some type of non-profit organization.
- f. **RIP Squad Report** – These Removal of Invasive Plants (RIP) Squad volunteers contributed over 200 hours this spring towards invasive plant control in the West Lafayette and Tippecanoe County parks (over 100 hours to each park system). This spring they had 18 volunteers from the community, and at least 25 additional volunteers from Purdue service organizations.

7. Janet Fawley, Park Superintendent's Report:

- a. The intersection of Happy Hollow Road and River Road are closed throughout the remainder of the summer. Follow the link to view the project elements according to their timeline. http://www.westlafayette.in.gov/egov/docs/1428006122_148010.pdf
- b. The trail from Morehouse Road to Trailhead Park on Kalberer Rd is now closed for the next month or so.
- c. Cattail Trail Extension (from Walmart to Yeager) expects to be completed by end of June. Trail dedication TBD.
- d. Joe Payne resigned from WL Parks & Recreation Foundation Board on June 9. Janet Fawley was elected to replace him.
- e. Pickleball has begun at Riverside Skating Rink. Playing in the morning and evening. No official schedule.
- f. WREC meeting was held on 5/28; land purchases continue; RiverFest planning continues.
- g. Pool was inspected & passed by County Health Department;
- h. Met w/ Purdue staff re: language on use agreements for students; need Parks Board attorney to review.

8. Larger Projects to be completed this year

- a. Cumberland Barn siding (RDC funds)
- b. Pool leak(NR Capital Pool Fund)
- c. Riverside Ice Skating Rink (CCD R/M services)
- d. HH Maintenance Building-Modine Heaters(2) (CCD fund)
- e. Tractor repair (CCD)
- f. Morton Center Mirrors for Rms 202 & 206 (NRO Fund)
- g. Morton Center Parking Lot to be resealed / striped & Basketball courts to be resealed lines(CCD funds)
- h. ADA Works @ Tapawingo (RDC Funds)
- i. Playground Safety Surfacing at all playgrounds(CCD Funds)
- j. Happy Hollow Ravine Trail (RDC Funds)
- k. Celery Bog Nature Area Sign/Public Art (RDC)
- l. Tapawingo Park Public Art

Claims – provided online initially; then physically at meeting

Karen motioned to approve the above Consent Agenda items as presented. John seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Presiding Officer

Secretary

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